Foreign Personalities' Visit to India

†207. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the foreign personalities who visited India since April, 2002, till date :

(b) the subjects on which discussions were held with each of these personalities;

(c) their reaction on the tension at Indo-Pakistan border;

(d) whether any bilateral agreements were also signed with other countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) Sir, visits of a number of foreign dignitaries have taken place during this period. A statement giving information with regard to the visits handled by the Ministry of External Affairs is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Foreign Personalities visit to India

Sl. No.	Name of the foreign personality with designation and dates of visit	Subjects on which discussions were held	Their reaction on the tension at Indo-Pak border	Details of bilateral agreements signed, if any
1	2	3	4	5
1.	H. L. Mrs. Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia (1—5 April, 2002)	President Megawati was accompanied by a large business delegation. President Megawati underlined the need to develop	Indonesia has traditionally shown understanding of our position.	1. Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders. 2. MOU between the Indian Space Research

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hind.

1	2	3	4	5
		co-operation in various fields especially in trade, investment, health and human resource development, science and technology, agriculture, ecological conservation, information technology and other areas of common concern. India's interests in participation in railway projects in Indonesia, strengthening of bilateral co-operation between two countries in telecommunications, power projects and port development were conveyed Co-operation in IT and Space were also discussed. India offered to extend support to Indonesia in offered to extend their setting up of Film & Television Institute and Institute of Fashion Design in Indonesia. Proposal to set up chairs of		Organisation and National Institute of Aeronautics and Space on co-operation in the field of Outer Space Research and Development. MOU concerning setting up of Vocational Training Centre for construction sector. Besides, nine other business-to-business MOUs were also signed.

1	2	3	4	5
		Indonesian and Indian studies in Universities in India and Indonesia respectively was mooted. India announced setting up of India-ASEAN Bio-Technology Centre and India-ASEAN Science & Technology Digital Library, both in Jakarta.		
2.	H.E. Mr. Vladimir Rushailo, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation (2—5 April, 2002)	Bilateral matters and regional and international issues of mutual interest were discussed between India and the Russian Federation.	The Russian side reiterated its strong condemnation of continued acts of trans-border terrorism against India and expressed its understanding and support regarding India's justified demands that these activities from Pakistan and territories controlled by it cease completely.	A joint Statement was issued at the end of the visit.
3.	H.E. Mr. Erkki Tuomioja, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland (16-17 April, 2002)	Bilateral issues, regional and global developments of mutual concern.	Concern was expressed.	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
4.	H.E. Mr. Alexander Downer, Foreign Minister of Australia (20—23 April, 2002)	Both sides undertook a review of bilateral and regional issues covering political, defence, economic, trade and strategic areas including co-operation in energy security and people-to-people contacts. Views were exchanged on international terrorism, Commonwealth and regional issues such as strategic involvement of major powers in the region, developments in South Asia, ASEAN and the Asia Pacific.	Appreciating the manner in which India was tackling the problem faced on account of terrorism in Kashmir. Dr. Downer noted that tension in Kashmir was lower. He also said that the Pakistanis seemed to be making some efforts.	MOU on Co-operation in the Area of Tourism.
5.	H.E. President Laurent Gbagbo of Cote d'Ivoire (21—23 May, 2002)	Transit Visit	—	—
6.	H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, Foreign Minister of Switzerland, (21—24 April, 2002)	Bilateral issues, regional and global developments of mutual concern.	Concern was expressed.	Nil
7.	H.E. President	The discussions	The Sri Lankan	Nil

1713 GIPMR/03—8

1	2	3	4	5
	Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga (22—26 April, 2002)	covered a broad range of bilateral issues and regional developments. She delivered the first Madhav Rao Scindia memorial lecture on April 23, 2002 on "Managing Change and Diversity".	Government agreed that global terrorism is a threat to international peace and security.	
8.	H.E. Mr. Per Stig Moller, Danish Foreign Minister (29—30 April, 2002)	Bilateral issues and regional and global developments of mutual concern.	Concern was expressed.	Nil
9.	H.E. Mr. Sadok Fayala, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs—in charge of Maghreb & African Affairs, Tunisia (05—07 May, 2002)	He co-chaired the 9th Session of Tunisian —India Joint Commission Meeting. All issues of mutual concern were discussed.	Issue not discussed since the agenda of his meeting was economic.	Protocol for co-operation between Foreign Service Institute of Ministry of External Affairs and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia. 2. MOU between Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi & The Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (FIPA), Tunis.

1	2	3	4	5
10.	H.R.H. Prince Ulukala Lavaka Ata, Prime Minister of Tonga (18—21 May, 2002)	Agriculture being the mainstay Tonga's economy, the visiting delegation expressed a keen interest in co-operation with India in agricultural sector. Both sides also exchanged views on India's interest in expending relations with countries of the South Pacific.	The visit was economically oriented.	Nil
11.	H.E. Dr. Kamal Kharazi, Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran (20—22 May, 2002)	He co-chaired the 12th India-Iran Joint Commission. The Joint Commission Meeting reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations including in the sphere of petroleum and natural gas, trade and industry, transport and communications, agriculture and rural development and consular, culture, information and science and technology	Dr. Kamal Kharazi urged for de-escalation of tension on Indo-Pak border and peaceful resolution of all disputes between India and Pakistan through dialogue. He said that Iran condemns terrorism in all its forms.	MOU of the 12th India-Iran Joint Commission.
12.	H.E. Mr. Ruud	Deliberations focus-	The issue was not	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
	Lubbers, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (22—24 May, 2002)	sed on co-operation between the UNHCR India and the activities of the UN Organisation globally and in the country.	raised in view of the nature of the visit.	
13.	H.E. Mr. Chris Patten, European Commissioner for External Affairs (24 May, 2002)	Bilateral and Regional issues.	Expressed concern over situation on the border.	Nil
14.	H.E. Mr. Jack Straw, British Foreign Secretary (28 May, 2002)	Bilateral and Regional issues.	Expressed concern over situation on the border.	Nil
15.	H.E. Mr. Seiken Suigura, Japanese Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs (30-31 May, 2002)	His visit was in the context of the tension between India and Pakistan	Mr. Suigura said that his message to Pakistan during his visit to that country before coming here was that Japan would like to see visible and concrete action by way of implementation of the assurances that President Musharraf gave to PM Koizumi about not exporting terrorism anywhere in the world and not allowing infiltration across	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
			the LoC. He also said that Pakistan should take appropriate measures against terrorist camps on Pakistan's side of the LoC.	
16.	H.E. Mr. Richard Armitage, U.S. Under Secretary of State (7-8 June, 2002)	His visit was in the context of the tension between India and Pakistan.	Mr. Armitage conveyed to Government that during his visit to Islamabad, just preceding his visit to New Delhi, President Musharraf had given the assurance that he would take steps to end cross border infiltration into Jammu & Kashmir immediately and permanently and to fulfil the promises he made successively on 12th January and 27th May.	
17.	H.E. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka (June 8—12, 2002)	Broad range of bilateral issues and regional developments.	The Sri Lankan Government agreed that global terrorism is a threat to international peace and security.	Nil
18.	H.E. Mr. Morshed Khan, Foreign	Broad range of bilateral issues and	He conveyed the concern of Bangla-	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
	Minister of Bangladesh (16-17 June, 2002)	regional developments.	desh over tensions on the Indo-Pakistan border.	Nil
19.	His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shaw Dev, King of Nepal (23—28 June, 2002)	Issues relating to terrorism, Maoist insurgency in Nepal as well as bilateral cooperation including in the trade and economic fields were discussed.	We explained our position and also our concern regarding the ISI misusing Nepalese territory for subversive activities against India. King Gyanendra reiterated that Nepal will not allow its territory to be misused for activities directed against India and assured co-operation in this regard.	Nil (On the margins of the visit, two Joint Task Forces were set up by the business chambers of the two countries for developing co-operation in the fields of water resources and tourism development.)

Foreign Policy to improve relations with neighbouring countries

208. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign policy adopted by Government and the steps taken by Government have helped to strengthen our relations with neighbouring countries viz. Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan;

(b) if so, in what manner; and